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A Center for Independent Living promoting disability awareness, options and support.

August 22, 2007

Ms. Mary Levine, Director of Legal Affairs  
Michigan State Housing Development Authority  
735 East Michigan Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48909

RECEIVED

AUG 28 2007

MSHDA-Legal

Re: Michigan's Qualified Allocation Plan

Dear Ms. Levine:

Community Connections of Southwest Michigan supports all changes to Michigan's Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) that will increase the number of housing units made available to persons who are homeless and/or special needs individuals/families, especially in the Benton Harbor area. There are very few units or programs for homeless persons with disabilities.

We are inundated by homeless individuals with mental illness, cognitive disabilities and others with disabilities on a daily basis. We are a very small agency (3 full-time staff) and are unable to keep up with the demand for services.

The Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program is one of the largest resources made available to Michigan to create new or rehabilitated affordable units for low income people, and as you may be aware, Michigan's economic climate has increased the homeless population across the state. On any given night, Michigan has a homeless population that exceeds 80,000 people, and it is imperative that tax credit dollars are dedicated to the creation of units that will assist this population and/or those with special needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns. If you have any questions, please phone me at the number above.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tracy S. Madden'.

Tracy S. Madden  
Program Coordinator